



House of Representatives

File No. 886

General Assembly

January Session, 2013

(Reprint of File No. 578)

Substitute House Bill No. 6591
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 31, 2013

AN ACT REQUIRING THE EUTHANIZATION OF ANY CAT OR DOG TO BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Whenever any cat or dog
2 is euthanized, such euthanization shall be performed in a humane
3 manner by a licensed veterinarian, provided nothing in this section
4 shall be construed to limit the killing of any cat or dog while such cat
5 or dog is attacking a person or another animal under circumstances
6 where a reasonable person would consider such attack life threatening
7 to a person or another animal or likely to cause serious physical injury
8 to a person or another animal. Nothing in this section shall be deemed
9 to apply to the euthanization of any farm animal or livestock or to the
10 euthanization of any cat or dog by any law enforcement officer in the
11 course of his or her duties or as described in sections 20-197 and 22-
12 332b of the general statutes.

13 (b) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
14 fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than

15 one year, or both.

16 (c) It shall be a defense to prosecution under this section that such
17 person euthanized such cat or dog with a life-threatening injury or
18 condition in order to prevent such cat's or dog's further suffering.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Correction, Dept.; Judicial Dpt (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Judicial Dept.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Less than \$20,000	Less than \$20,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill creates a new violation with regards to euthanasia of dogs and cats. The number of potential offenders for this new offense is unknown but is anticipated to be less than 20. To the extent that offenders are prosecuted under this bill, potential costs for incarceration or probation supervision in the community would result. On average, it costs \$50,690 to incarcerate an offender and \$4,968 (including fringe benefits) to supervise an offender on probation in the community. The bill also results in a potential revenue gain of less than \$20,000 to the Judicial Department for fines associated with this provision.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and replaces it with language that results in the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6591 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT REQUIRING THE EUTHANIZATION OF ANY CAT OR DOG TO BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN.*****SUMMARY:**

With certain exceptions, this bill requires that the euthanization of dogs or cats be performed only by licensed veterinarians in a humane manner. The bill subjects violators to up to a year in prison, up to a \$1,000 fine, or both.

The bill does not limit the killing of a cat or dog that is attacking a person or another animal (not just a dog or cat) if, under the circumstances, a reasonable person would consider the attack to threaten the life of, or likely cause serious injury to, the person or animal.

The bill does not apply to the euthanization of:

1. farm animals or livestock;
2. cats or dogs by law enforcement officers in the course of their duties;
3. dogs by hospitals, educational institutions, or laboratories licensed to use living dogs in medical or biological teaching, research, or study, in accordance with the law's requirements for such activities; or
4. presumably, dogs or cats by the Connecticut Humane Society. As one of its exceptions, the bill references a statute which, among other things, provides that the euthanization of animals by the Connecticut Humane Society, in accordance with

applicable state and federal drug laws, is not deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine. (Other provisions of existing law, unchanged by the bill, allow Connecticut Humane Society agents or officers, even if they are not licensed veterinarians, to humanely destroy animals under certain conditions.)

Under the bill, it is a defense to prosecution if a person euthanized a dog or cat with a life-threatening injury or condition to prevent the animal's further suffering.

*House Amendment "A":

1. removes a provision specifying that the bill applies notwithstanding other provisions of the statutes;
2. adds the exceptions for the Connecticut Humane Society and dogs used in teaching or research;
3. specifies that the defense to prosecution applies to someone who euthanized an animal with a life-threatening condition, not just a life-threatening injury; and
4. makes a minor change in the exception concerning a dog or cat that is attacking a person or animal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (04/05/2013)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 38 Nay 3 (04/24/2013)